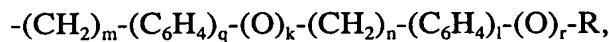


wherein

one of Z¹ and Z² is H and the other is [in each case, independently, are each]



wherein

m and n, independently, are each 0-20,

k, l, q and r are each, independently, 0 or 1,

R is H, or C₁-C₆-alkyl, OR¹-substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl or CH₂COOR¹,

R¹ is H, or C₁-C₆-alkyl or benzyl; and

is, in each case, a hydrogen atom [and/or] or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70; [and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;]

with the provisos that:

at least two X groups represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

[one of the substituents Z¹ and Z² is hydrogen and the other is not hydrogen;]

when n and l are each 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1;

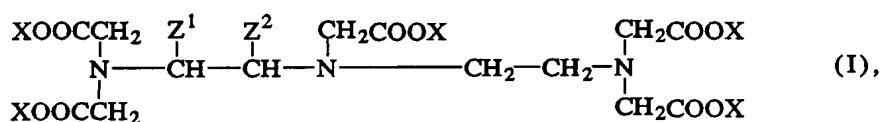
-(O)_r-R is not -OH; [and]

Z¹ and Z² are not -C₆H₅, -CH₂-C₆H₅, -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-CH₂-COOCH₂C₆H₅ or -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-(CH₂)₅-COOCH₂C₆H₅; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

31 16. (Amended.) A method of enhancing an NMR image of the GI tract of a patient comprising administering a compound of the formula



wherein

one of Z¹ and Z² [in each case independently are the residue] is H and the other is

-(CH₂)_m-(C₆H₄)₁-(O)_k-(CH₂)_n-(C₆H₄)₁-(O)_r-R,

wherein

m and n independently are 0-20,

k, l, q and r each independently is 0 or 1,

R is hydrogen, optionally OR¹-substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl or CH₂COOR¹,

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl or benzyl, and

X is, in each case, a hydrogen atom [and/or] or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70,

with the provisos that:

at least two of the substituents X represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70; [that one of the substituents Z¹ and Z² is hydrogen and the other is not hydrogen;] and [that]

when n and l are each 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1[,];

-(O)_r-R is not -OH;

Z¹ and Z² are not -C₆H₅, -CH₂-C₆H₅, -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-CH₂-COOCH₂C₆H₅ or -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-(CH₂)₅-COOCH₂C₆H₅; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

Please add the following new claims:

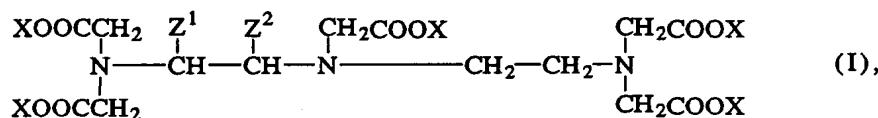
29 -- 44. A method according to claim 11, wherein said compound is administered as a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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45. A method according to claim 16, wherein said compound is administered as a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30 46. A method according to claim 11, wherein R¹ is H or C₁-C₆-alkyl.

31 47. A method according to claim 16, wherein R¹ is H or C₁-C₆-alkyl.

32 48. A method of enhancing NMR imaging of a patient having renal insufficiency comprising administering to a patient a compound of the formula



wherein

one of Z¹ and Z² is H and the other is -(CH₂)_m-(C₆H₄)_q-(O)_k-(CH₂)_n-(C₆H₄)_l-(O)_r-R,

wherein

m and n, independently, are each 0-20,

k, l, q and r are each, independently, 0 or 1,

R is H, or C₁-C₆-alkyl, OR¹-substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl or CH₂COOR¹,

R¹ is H, or C₁-C₆-alkyl or benzyl; and

X is, in each case, a hydrogen atom or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

with the provisos that:

at least two X groups represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

when n and l are each 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1;

-(O)_r-R is not -OH;

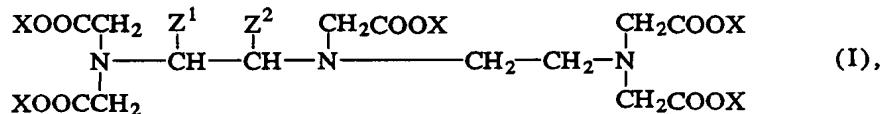
Z¹ and Z² are not -C₆H₅, -CH₂-C₆H₅, -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-CH₂-COOCH₂C₆H₅ or -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-(CH₂)₅-COOCH₂C₆H₅; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

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35 49. In a method of NMR imaging a patient comprising administering an NMR contrast agent to said patient, the improvement wherein said contrast agent is a compound of the formula



wherein

one of Z^1 and Z^2 is H and the other is $-(\text{CH}_2)_m-(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)_q-(\text{O})_k-(\text{CH}_2)_n-(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)_l-(\text{O})_r-\text{R}$,

wherein

m and n , independently, are each 0-20,

k , l , q and r are each, independently, 0 or 1,

R is H, or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl, OR^1 -substituted $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl or CH_2COOR^1 ,

R^1 is H, or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl or benzyl; and

is, in each case, a hydrogen atom or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

with the provisos that:

at least two X groups represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

when n and l are each 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1;

$-(\text{O})_r-\text{R}$ is not $-\text{OH}$;

Z^1 and Z^2 are not $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_5$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-O-CH}_2\text{-COOCH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-O-(CH}_2)_5\text{-COOCH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide. --

R E M A R K S

Amendments

Claim 11 is amended to recite that R^1 can be, *inter alia*, benzyl. See, e.g., page 4, lines 13-14. This amendment clarifies the proviso clause as to groups Z^1 and Z^2 . Also, the

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